

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/083,399

Examiner

Phung My Chung

Applicant(s)

TANAKA ET AL.

Art Unit

2133

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-23.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 February 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 2/27/02
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: claims 1-23 are allowable over the arts of record. This is because the arts of record does not disclose or teach the invention as recited in claims 1, 7, 11, 18 and 22, and including:

a) In claims 1 and 7: wherein the processing circuit includes:

a decision circuit which determines a relationship between a deciding reference voltage supplied externally of the semiconductor substrate and the voltage generated by the voltage generation means; and

a control circuit which determines the control data on the data register by referring to an output from the decision circuit, and which stores the determined control data in the nonvolatile storage means from the data register, and the operation of the control data is determined by a program.

b) In claim 11: wherein the processing circuit includes:

a decision circuit which determines a relationship between the pulse width of a reference pulse signal and the pulse width of the clock signal generated by the clock generation circuit; and

a control circuit which determines the control data on the data register by referring to an output from the decision circuit, and

the operation of the control circuit is determined by a program.

c) In claim 18: a first process comprising a step of inputting a reference voltage to the plurality of semiconductor integrated circuits from the outside in a parallel manner; and

a second process comprising the steps of: in execution of a test operation by means of the processing circuit of each semiconductor integrated circuit, determining a relationship between the voltage generated by the voltage generation means and the reference voltage on the basis of control data set in the data register; updating the control data until a target condition is reached by the determination result; and storing the control data in the nonvolatile storage means when the target condition is reached by the determination result.

d) In claim 22: a first process comprising the step of instructing each of the plurality of semiconductor integrated circuits to execute a test operation; and

a second process comprising the steps of: in execution of the test operation by means of the processing circuit of each semiconductor integrated circuit, determining a relationship between the pulse width of a periodic signal generated by the frequency dividing circuit and the pulse width of a reference pulse signal on the basis of the control data set in the data register; updating the control data until a target condition is reached by the determination result; and storing the control data in the nonvolatile storage means when the target condition is reached by the determination result.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phung My Chung whose telephone number is 571-272-3818. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert Decady can be reached on 571-272-3819. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Phung My Chung
Primary Patent Examiner